

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, and 14-17 were canceled previously. Claims 2, 4, 11, and 20 are amended. Support for the amendments to Claims 2, 4, and 11 can be found in the application in Figs. 13 and 14, for example, where the set value “punch” is changed from “up” to “left” and the corresponding description of these figures in the specification. Support for the amendment to Claim 20 is self-evident. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 20 was objected to for an informality. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11-13, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tonkin (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,568) in view of Murphy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,531, herein “Murphy”) and Mazur et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,955,253, herein “Mazur”).

Amended independent Claim 2, recites, in part:

a document supervisory client configured to generate print condition settings, the print condition settings including a first setting including first information and a second setting including second information; and

...

wherein said document supervisory client is configured to make a query to the document supervisory server via a network inquiring whether the first and second settings are permissible, in combination, in a printer, and said document supervisory server is further configured to return advisability of the first and second settings to the document supervisory client,

said document supervisory server is configured to change one of the first and second settings to a third setting including third information and to send the third setting and an unchanged one of the first and second settings to the document supervisory client upon determining that the first and second settings are impermissible in combination with each other, and the document supervisory server is further configured to

determine which of the first and second settings to change based on a priority order previously stored in the supervisory server,

...

the one of the first and second settings changed by said document supervisory server is a setting that was set by the document supervisory client, and

the first, second, and third information each specify at least one function of the at least one printer at least one characteristic of a medium on which the printer operates.

Accordingly, the print condition settings include a first setting including first information.

The print condition settings include a second setting including second information. The document supervisory server changes one of the first and second settings when the first and second settings are impermissible, in combination. The one of the first and second settings that is changed is replaced with a third setting including third information. The first, second, and third information each specify at least one of a function of at least one printer or a characteristic of a medium on which the printer operates.

One benefit of the above-noted arrangement is that the server can automatically **correct** an **error** in print condition settings made on the document supervisory client side of the printing system.

In contrast, Tonkin fills in a specific setting when a user has specified a general type of print condition, but left the specific details of the print condition blank (unentered). This arrangement is discussed in column 9, lines 24-37 of Tonkin where the user specifies a type of binding and the software selects a specific binding of that type based on properties such as thickness of the final document.

As discussed in column 10, lines 23-43, when Tonkin finds that the user has specified a parameter, for example, binding type, which cannot be accommodated in combination with, for example, a thickness of a document, Tonkin displays an error message (step 258).

In the outstanding Office Action as well as the previous Office Actions, the lack of an entry and the subsequent filling in of the empty field created by the lack of entry described in Tonkin was correlated to changing a setting as recited in independent Claims 2, 4, and 11.

While this correlation is respectively traversed, Claims 2, 4, and 11 are amended to further clarify that **the setting that is changed contains information relating to a function of the printer or a characteristic of the medium on which the printer performs a function**. A first or second setting that includes information regarding the function of a printer or the medium operated on by the printer does not correlate to an empty field (unentered setting) as described in Tonkin. Rather, the first, second, and third information recited in amended independent Claim 2 are not empty fields. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 2 and the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Tonkin for at least the reasons discussed above.

Murphy fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Tonkin. Murphy describes improving print quality without adversely impacting printing performance. Murphy does not disclose first and second settings that are impermissible, in combination with each other. Thus, Murphy does not change one of a first and second setting (which each contain information regarding printing) to a third setting as recited in amended independent Claim 2.

Mazur relates to a currency evaluation device that receives a stack of money and evaluates the bills in the stack based on whether the bills fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion. Mazur does not disclose first, second, and third print condition settings, much less that first and second print condition settings are evaluated for impermissibility, in combination with each other. Thus, Mazur fails to further disclose replacing one of the first and second settings with a third setting, wherein the first, second, and third settings each include first, second, and third information as recited in amended independent Claim 2.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 4 and 11, which recite substantially similar features to those discussed above regarding amended independent Claim 2, patentably distinguish over any proper combination of Tonkin, Murphy, and Mazur for at least the reasons discussed above.

The remaining dependent claims each depend from one of amended independent Claims 2, 4, and 11 and patentably distinguish over any proper combination of the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should Examiner Dulaney deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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